

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A process for preparing N-methyldialkylamines from secondary dialkylamines and formaldehyde at a temperature of from 100 to 200°C, which comprises using from 1.5 to 3 mol of formaldehyde per mole of secondary dialkylamine, degassing the resulting reaction product, removing the aqueous phase and distilling the organic phase.

Claim 2 (original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein from 1.5 to 2.5 mol of formaldehyde are used per mole of secondary dialkylamine.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein operation is effected at a temperature from 120 to 160°C.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the secondary dialkylamines used are mixed or symmetrical cycloaliphatic or aliphatic dialkylamines having straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl groups each having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms or having arylalkyl groups each having from 7 to 15 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (original) The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the secondary dialkylamines used are mixed or symmetrical cycloaliphatic or aliphatic dialkylamines

having straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl groups each having from 2 to 15 carbon atoms, preferably from 2 to 9 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~ for ~~preparing N-methyldi-n-butylamine or N-methyldi-n-propylamine~~ claim 1 wherein the dialkylamine is di-n-butylamine or di-n-propylamine.